

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A tape measure according to claim 4 7, wherein there are at least two apertures in the casing.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) A tape measure according to claim 3 7, wherein the length of the at least one aperture is at least 5 cm.
6. (Currently Amended) A tape measure according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 7, wherein ~~the portions of the casing which have the~~ at least one ~~apertures in~~ aperture ~~follow~~ extends along at least a portion of the circumference of the spool ~~on which the measuring end is spooled.~~
7. (Previously Presented) A tape measure having a case, in which is a spooled concave measuring blade, the blade being extendable from the case via an

opening, the tape measure having a spring which acts to urge the blade back into its spooled configuration, and an end piece at the free end of the measuring blade, wherein the tape measure further comprises at least one aperture in the casing to allow direct access to the spooled blade;

wherein the at least one aperture is provided in an edge of the case, the length of the at least one aperture, the length being measured around the circumference of the spooled blade, is at least 3 cm, and ~~A tape measure according to claim 4, wherein the width of the at least one aperture is less than the width of the spooled measuring blade.~~

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A tape measure having a case, in which is a spooled concave measuring blade, the blade being extendable from the case via an opening, the tape measure having a spring which acts to urge the blade back into its spooled configuration, and an end piece at the free end of the measuring blade, wherein the tape measure further comprises at least one aperture in the case, and a plurality of disks, the blade being spooled over the disks; wherein at least one of the disks ~~A tape measure according to claim 8, wherein the driving means are~~ is an extension of one of the discs such that it extends through an aperture in the case for driving the blade in a direction to extend the blade from the casing.

10. (Currently Amended) A tape measure having a case, in which is a spooled concave measuring blade, the blade being extendable from the case via an opening, the tape measure having a spring which acts to urge the blade back into its spooled configuration, and an end piece at the free end of the measuring blade,
wherein the tape measure further comprises ~~A tape measure according to claim 8,~~
~~wherein the driving means comprise a thumbwheel mounted in the case, which said~~
~~thumbwheel can drive~~ drives one of the discs or the spool on which the blade is
~~spooled~~ in a direction to extend the blade from the casing.

11. (Original) A tape measure according to claim 10, further comprising a spool or a plurality of disks for receiving the measuring blade thereon, wherein the thumbwheel is located such that it is always linked to the disc or the spool.

12. - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A tape measure according to claim ~~10~~ 11, wherein the thumbwheel directly engages the disc or the spool.

15. (Canceled)